

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendment and the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

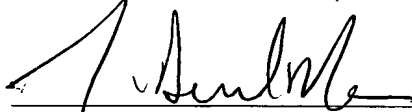
Claims 1, 3, and 6-8 are pending; Claims 2, 4, 5, and 9-12 are canceled; Claims 1 and 3 are amended; and no claims are newly added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 2 and 3 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowed subject matter of Claim 2, and Claim 3 has been amended to depend from Claim 1. Applicants further acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 6-8 are allowed.

Consequently, as the pending claims have been indicated as allowable, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



J. Derek Mason, Ph.D.  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 35,270  
Katherine D. Pauley  
Registration No. 50,607

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
JDM:KDP:law

I:\ATTY\KDP\207\203870US\203879US AM 2-20-04.DOC